

What is claimed is:

1           1. An information processing apparatus at least having a  
2 processing unit and an output unit, wherein  
3           said processing apparatus comprises:  
4           an encryption processing device for performing an encryption  
5 process on a digital content by using encryption key information shared  
6 with said output unit; and  
7           a transfer device for transferring the encrypted digital content to  
8 said output unit, and  
9           said output unit comprises:  
10          an input device for inputting the digital content transferred from  
11 said processing apparatus;  
12          a decryption processing device for performing a decryption  
13 process on the inputted digital content by using the encryption key  
14 information shared with said processing apparatus; and  
15          an output device for outputting the digital content decrypted from  
16 the encrypted part.

1           2. An information processing apparatus at least having a  
2 processing unit and an output unit, wherein  
3           said processing apparatus comprises:  
4           an encryption processing device for performing an encryption

process on a part of a digital content by using encryption key information shared with said output unit; and

a transfer device for transferring the partly encrypted digital content to said output unit, and

said output unit comprises:

an input device for inputting the digital content transferred from said processing apparatus;

a decryption processing device for performing a decryption process on the inputted digital content by using the encryption key information shared with said processing apparatus; and

an output device for outputting the digital content decrypted from an encrypted part.

3. An information processing apparatus at least having a processing unit and an output unit, wherein

said processing apparatus comprises:

an input device for inputting an encrypted digital content;

an decryption processing device for performing a decryption process on the inputted digital content by using encryption key information for decrypting the digital content;

an encryption processing device for performing an encryption process on a part of the decrypted digital content by using the encryption key information shared with said output unit; and

a transfer device for transferring the encrypted digital content to said output unit;

13           said output unit comprising:  
 14           an input device for inputting the digital content transferred from  
 15   said processing apparatus;  
 16           a decryption processing device for performing a decryption  
 17   process on the inputted digital content by using the encryption key  
 18   information shared with said processing apparatus; and  
 19           an output device for outputting the digital content decrypted from  
 20   an encrypted part.

1           4. An information processing apparatus comprising:  
 2           an input device for inputting an encrypted digital content;  
 3           an decryption processing device for performing a decryption  
 4   process on the inputted digital content by using encryption key  
 5   information for decrypting the digital content;  
 6           an encryption processing device for performing an encryption  
 7   process on a part of the decrypted digital content by using encryption key  
 8   information shared with a destination output unit; and  
 9           a transfer device for transferring a partly encrypted digital content  
 10   to said output unit.

1           5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
 2   wherein the digital content to be inputted by said input device is  
 3   encrypted, with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken  
 4   as one unit, in a part of the units as a subject of encryption.

1           6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2,  
2 wherein said encryption processing device performs an encryption  
3 process, with a formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as  
4 one unit, on a part of the units as a subject of encryption processing.

1           7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2,  
2 wherein, in the case that said output unit is a sound reproducing unit,  
3 said encryption processing device performs an encryption process, with a  
4 plurality of samples of sound data taken as one unit, on sound data to be  
5 outputted to said sound reproducing unit in a part of the sound data units  
6 as a subject of encryption processing.

1           8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2,  
2 wherein, in the case that said output unit is a display unit, said encryption  
3 processing device performs an encryption process, with a plurality of  
4 lines of display data taken as one unit, on a part of the display data units  
5 as a subject of encryption in a line direction of the display data to be  
6 outputted to said display unit, or performs an encryption process, with a  
7 plurality of columns of display data taken as one unit, on a part of the  
8 display data units as a subject of encryption in a column direction of the  
9 display data to be outputted to said display unit.

1           9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2,  
2 wherein, in the case that said output unit is a display unit, said encryption  
3 processing device performs an encryption process, with data in an amount

4 of one pixel of display data to be outputted to said display unit taken as  
5 one unit, on one part, as a subject of encryption processing, of a part of or  
6 an entirety of the display data units.

1 10. A display unit comprising:  
2 an input device for inputting encrypted display data;  
3 a decryption processing device for performing a decryption  
4 process on the inputted display data by using encryption key information  
5 shared with an information processing apparatus as a transfer destination  
6 of the display data; and  
7 a display device for displaying display data decrypted from an  
8 encrypted part.

1 11. A display unit according to claim 10, wherein a digital content  
2 to be inputted by said input device is encrypted, with a plurality of lines  
3 of display data taken as one unit, in a part of the display data units as a  
4 subject of encryption processing in a line direction of the display data in  
5 plaintext, or, with a plurality of columns of display data taken as one unit,  
6 in a part of the display data units as a subject of encryption processing in  
7 a column direction of the display data in plaintext.

1 12. A display unit according to claim 10, wherein a digital content  
2 to be inputted by said input device is encrypted, with data in an amount  
3 of one pixel of display data in plaintext taken as one unit, on one part, as  
4 a subject of encryption processing, of a part of or the entirety of the

5 display data units.

1 13. A digital content distributing system having a digital content  
2 distributing apparatus for distributing a digital content and an  
3 information processing apparatus for transferring and outputting the  
4 digital content distributed from the digital content distributing apparatus  
5 to an output unit, wherein:

6 said digital content distributing apparatus comprises:

7 a storage device storing a digital content partly encrypted by using  
8 first encryption key information shared with said information processing  
9 apparatus; and

10 a distributing device for distributing the stored digital content to  
11 said information processing apparatus,

12 said information processing apparatus comprises:

13 an input device for inputting the digital content distributed from  
14 said digital content distributing apparatus;

15 a decryption processing device for performing a decryption  
16 process on an encrypted part of the inputted digital content by using the  
17 first encryption key information;

18 an encryption processing device for performing an encryption  
19 process on a part of the digital content decrypted from the encrypted part  
20 by using second encryption key information shared with said output unit;  
21 and

22 a transfer device for transferring the encrypted digital content to  
23 said output unit, and

24           said output unit comprises:  
25           an input device for inputting the digital content transferred from  
26   said information processing apparatus;  
27           a decryption processing device for performing a decryption  
28   process on an encryption part of the inputted digital content by using the  
29   second encryption key information;  
30           an output device for outputting the digital content decrypted from  
31   the encrypted part;  
32           wherein said encryption processing device of said digital content  
33   distributing apparatus and said encryption processing device of said  
34   information processing apparatus perform an encryption process, with a  
35   formatting unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a  
36   part of the units as a subject of encryption processing.

1           14. A method for distributing a digital content from a digital  
2   content distributing apparatus to an information processing apparatus  
3   and outputting the distributed digital content by an output unit, in a  
4   digital content distributing system having the digital content distributing  
5   apparatus for distributing the digital content and the information  
6   processing apparatus for transferring and outputting the digital content  
7   distributed from the digital content distributing apparatus to the output  
8   unit, said method comprising the steps of:  
9           distributing, by said digital content distributing apparatus, a  
10   digital content partly encrypted by using first encryption key information  
11   shared with said information processing apparatus, to said information

12 processing apparatus;

13 performing, by said information processing apparatus, a  
14 decryption process, using the first encryption key information, on an  
15 encrypted part of the digital content distributed from said digital content  
16 distributing apparatus, and an encryption process, using second  
17 encryption key information shared with said output unit, on a part of a  
18 digital content decrypted in the encrypted part, and then transferring the  
19 encrypted digital content to said output unit;

20 performing a decryption process, using the second encryption key  
21 information, on an encrypted part of the digital content transferred from  
22 said information processing apparatus and outputting a digital content  
23 decrypted in an encrypted part, by said output unit;

24 wherein the digital content to be distributed by said digital  
25 content distributing apparatus and the digital content to be transferred by  
26 said information processing apparatus are encrypted, with a formatting  
27 unit of the digital content in plaintext taken as one unit, on a part of the  
28 formatting units as a subject of encryption.